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PHILBY STORY

Izvestia Tells How CIA Plan Was Betrayed

By Robert Morris

IF ONE WISHES to read a cruel narrative, he should read the Izvestia interview with Harold A. R. (Kim) Philby which appeared last week. Philby is the British secret service agent who worked for the Communists. Here are excerpts:

"In the spring of 1951, an important meeting was called in the office of one of the leaders of the Central Intelligence Agency, the sanctum sanctorum of the American secret service. In addition to Allen Dulles, around the long table sat Frank Wisner, the head of the service for super-secret subversive political operations. His post was a secret even to trusted workers, he was listed as an assistant to the director of the department for policy co-ordination.



Morris

"The participants in the meeting were waiting for an important guest, Kim Philby, the head of a special liaison mission between the British secret service and the CIA in Washington, was supposed to take part in working out an operation of extreme importance.

"THE CIA had pinned high hopes on the British guest, a prominent member of the British secret service who was considered an outstanding expert on operations against the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries. Philby had stood at the cradle of the CIA—the American espionage system was created under the guidance of the highly experienced British secret service.

"The CIA had been ordered to work out an operation on organizing a counter-revolutionary uprising in one of the Balkan Socialist countries. The first stage of this action was supposed to be the dropping of a group of several hundred saboteurs on the territory of this country. Almost all of them were emigres from the country. The group was supposed to stir up trouble in various places, which, when merged together, would lead to an explosion.

"Philby approved the plan; certain details seemed to have been inadequately worked out and he made a number of corrections.

"One of the most significant operations of the CIA, carefully concealed throughout the subsequent 17 years of the cold war, ended in an unexpected failure. The team of dropped men was greeted in a proper way. It was catastrophe, and mourning was observed in CIA headquarters."

NOR WAS this betrayal the only such episode. Here is what Philby says of others:

"Because of the nature of my activities, I had to organize all sorts of operations against the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries and then torpedo them myself. I always found support in thinking about the solidarity, the reliability of the rear. . . .

"I was also very much helped in my work by the fact that, even in Western countries, I continually came across sincere friends of the Soviet people, people whose entire hearts were devoted to Socialism. I saw that these people were prepared to involve themselves in the struggle for the security of the world's finest Socialist state."

And yet the prevailing leadership of the nation reserves its most harsh judgment, not for those who were responsible for these acts of betrayal but rather for those who sought to prevent them.